
Canvassing Kansas

An update on election news in Kansas

Published by Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh

June 1996

Dole Announces Resignation

There was a lot of surprise and some confusion on the Kansas political and electoral scene on May 15 when U.S. Senator Bob Dole announced he would resign his Senate seat "on or before June 11" in order to concentrate on his race for the Presidency. A day earlier he had announced his intention to resign his position as Senate majority leader, but his later announcement caught many people by surprise.

Questions began to circulate immediately: Whom would the governor appoint to fill the vacancy?

When would Senator Dole officially vacate the office?

Would a November election be required to fill the vacancy?

What candidates would file for the November election?

Using the Seventeenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Kansas law in K.S.A. 25-318, the Secretary of State's office consulted with the offices of the Governor and Attorney General to design a plan. State law says that in the case of a vacancy in the office of U.S.

Senator, the Governor appoints a temporary replacement until the next election for Representatives in Congress. On May 24, Governor Graves announced his intentions to appoint Lieutenant Governor Sheila Frahm to fill the vacancy.

The plan that emerged from discussions is as follows: There will be a general election in November to elect a person to fill the remaining two years of Senator Dole's unexpired term.

Partisan candidates for the position will run in the regular primary on August 6.

The filing deadline for candidates wishing to run in the

primary and for third party candidates is extended to noon, June 24. The partisan candidate filing deadline for all other offices in 1996 remains noon, June 10.

The deadline for independent candidates to file their petitions to be on the general election ballot for Dole's seat remains noon, August 5.

It is unusual, although not unprecedented, to elect both U.S. Senators in the same year. The Secretary of State is working with county election officers to ensure an orderly nomination and election process and to minimize confusion among voters.



Election Calendar

Monday, June 10 - Noon ... Primary Filing Deadline
Monday, June 24 - Noon ... Primary Filing Deadline for
U.S. Senate (unexpired term only)
Wednesday, July 17 Begin Mailing Advance
Voting Ballots

Monday, July 22 Last Day to Register or Change Party Affiliation
Tuesday, July 30 Advance Voting In Person Must Begin
Monday, August 5-Noon ... Deadline for Independent Candidates to File Petitions
Tuesday, August 6 Primary Election Day

Wednesday, October 16 Begin Mailing Advance Voting Ballots
Monday, October 21 Last Day to Register or Change Party Affiliation
Tuesday, October 29 Advance Voting in Person Must Begin
Tuesday, November 5 General Election Day

CEO's as Notaries

At the statewide county clerk meeting in May, a question was asked concerning whether county clerks are notaries public. The answer given was no; however, chapter 54 of the Kansas Statutes authorizes county clerks to administer oaths and affirmations.

Upon returning to Topeka, calls on this issue prompted further research. We discovered another statute, K.S.A.19-321, permits county clerks to take acknowledgments of deeds, mortgages and other instruments of writing, and use the county seal to attest to these acts. This statute covers virtually every act a notary public is authorized to perform.

So, in summary, county clerks are not notaries public, but they are authorized to perform the same kinds of acts notaries public perform and to use the county seal to attest those acts.



REMINDERS...

- The partisan **candidate filing deadline** is noon, June 10 for all offices except the race for Senator Dole's U.S. Senate seat. That deadline is noon, June 24. Libertarian Party candidates must be certified by the same deadlines. Independent candidates file their petitions by noon, August 5, the day before the primary election. The Secretary of State's office will send candidate names to county election officers as soon as possible after each deadline.
- We request that each county election officer submit a **state motor-voter statistical report** for the month of April, 1996. The last report was as of April 1, and it contained registrations received from January 1 through March 31, 1996. The report for the April period will be the last state motor-voter statistical report because we will move to the NVRA system, and CEOs will file NVRA County Report Forms. That form was distributed at the March 6 NVRA training and revised and redistributed at the May 2 statewide clerks meeting. We have received further suggestions, and it appears we will revise it again to make it clearer and send it to all CEOs. We are considering a quarterly NVRA reporting system to coincide with the CVR filings on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 each year. More information later.

- The next deadline for the **central voter registration file** is July 1, 1996. We ask that everyone send their entire county vote registration database to the Secretary of State's office as soon as possible after July 1. As we've said before, prompt response is especially important during the election season. The number of requests for the information increases during campaigns. If you have had data processing problems with your file recently, please resolve them before July 1.

- The mailing period for **advance ballots** for the August primary begins July 17. In-person advance voting in the county election office must begin July 30, and it may begin earlier at the discretion of the county election officer, up to twenty days before the election.

- **Voter registration for the primary election ends** at the close of business on July 22. That is the last day to register or change party affiliation before the primary; registration is closed for the fourteen days preceding the election and election day, and it reopens the day after the election.

- Each CEO must certify to the Secretary of State and county party chairs the **number of registered voters and party affiliations** by precinct as soon as possible after the registration cutoff July 22. See K.S.A. 25-33-2, K.A.R. 7-27-1. Forms will be sent later, and we hope to have the means to accept these certifications electronically from those CEOs who wish to avoid the paper.

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What's Inside

Page 4 -FVAP

-Corporate Farming

-Electronic Mailing

Page 5 -Legislative Update

-Residency Requirements

Page 6 -NVRA Update

Page 7 -National Voter

Registration

-Transmitting NVRA

Forms

Page 8 -Advance Voting

Page 9 -U.S. Citizenship Proof

-1996 Candidate Filings



An Exciting Election Season to Come

Dear Friends,

As you are aware, Bob Dole announced on May 15 that he would give up not only the privileges of the office of the Senate Majority Leader, but of the United States Senate itself. In an attempt to illustrate to voters and members of his own party his commitment to winning the presidency, Dole made the decision to resign on or before June 11.

And while Senator Dole closes the door on his 35-year congressional career, other doors are opening in Kansas. Governor Bill Graves has announced his intention to appoint Lieutenant Governor Sheila Frahm to fill the temporary vacancy until the next congressional election, at which time Kansas voters will have the opportunity to select a permanent replacement to complete the last two years of Dole's six-year term.

Senator Dole's decision to resign "on or before June 11" created instant speculation not only about whom his replacement would be, but also about how that replacement would be selected. There is no doubt that Kansas law requires a permanent successor to be elected at the next election does not prescribe filing deadlines. In the interest of making sure all persons have sufficient time to make decisions about participating in this race, I extended the filing deadline for this office to June 24. This is not a step taken lightly. As chief state election officer, I consulted with both the Attorney General and the Governor's office. All agreed that a framework which is fully inclusive in permitting all persons to participate was the key consideration. Extending the filing deadline for this seat is a reasonable step in ensuring the electorate is informed about this election and its right to participate in it.

The Senator's impending resignation also leaves Kansas with one of its most exciting election seasons in recent memory. All six federal seats are open, which is highly unusual. We have had races for both senate seats in the same election only three times in our history, most recently in 1962. Additionally, all state senate and house seats and countless local offices are up for election, so there is ample opportunity to get involved and run for office. We are looking forward to working with you in the coming months to guarantee that the primary and general elections will go smoothly.

Sincerely,

RON THORNBURGH
Secretary of State

Reform Party Submits Petition

Organizers of the Reform Party petition drive in Kansas met with Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh at the Capitol on June 3 to submit their petition seeking official party recognition in Kansas elections. Mark Marney and Ida Terry, two of the organizers and spokespersons for United We Stand America and the petition drive, delivered the petition and held a press conference in the Secretary of State's office.

State law requires valid signatures of registered voters equal to two percent of the total vote cast for the office of Governor in the last general election. Based on the 1994 election, the requirement to obtain recognition in Kansas for 1996 is 16,417 signatures. Marney and Terry reported they were submitting approximately 27,000 signatures in all. The bulk of the signatures were gathered in Sedgwick, Shawnee, Johnson and Wyandotte counties, with a significant number scattered throughout the rest of the counties in the state.

The Secretary of State's office proceeded to send copies of each county's petition to the respective county election officers. County election officers have twenty days to certify the number of valid signatures received, but it was hoped that the process could be concluded in less time.

The Reform Party, if officially recognized, has to hold a convention and certify candidates for office to the Secretary of State by noon, June 10, even though it was doubtful that they would know by then if the petition was sufficient. Candidates nominated by third parties such as the Reform Party do not run in the primary election; rather, they go directly onto the general election ballot.

FVAP to the Rescue

Recently, Pottawatomie County Clerk Gwen Harris got a call from a woman who wanted to know if her daughter could vote in the spring elections by absentee ballot. There were just a couple of twists to the request--the daughter lives in France, she's a nun, the mail service is erratic, telephoning is difficult (when the sisters are at prayer they have an answering machine on, but sisters who do answer the phone speak little or no English), and since it was Lent, the daughter could not use the telephone without special permission from her superiors.

Gwen called the Secretary of State's office and we got in touch with Rick Rovira who works for the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP.) Three days later we received a copy of the letter Mr. Rovira had sent to Sister Raphael. In the letter Rick included all the instructions needed to complete the process as well as a toll free number to use in faxing the ballots and one to call FVAP from France.

Rick told us that this particular set of circumstances was unique to him. Evidently they do the difficult in one day and the impossible in three!

Corporate Farming

The Attorney General recently issued an opinion concerning the ability of a county to rescind a resolution authorizing corporate hog or dairy farming.

In opinion number 96-21, issued March 5, 1996, the Attorney General said that a county may use its home rule powers under K.S.A. 19-101a and police powers to rescind a resolution authorizing corporate hog or dairy farming.

The attorney general followed up her opinion with a March 14, 1996 letter to county attorneys in counties who have approved corporate hog or dairy farming, encouraging careful study and thought before rescinding prior approval of corporate hog or dairy farming.

If you are in a county considering corporate hog or dairy farming, we encourage you to obtain a copy of these materials by calling our law clerk at (913) 296-8034 and leaving a message.

Electronic Mailing

It's been a particularly busy day in your office. The phones have been ringing off the hook, the county commission meeting ran late, tax statements are due and today is the deadline to file a quarterly report with the Secretary of State's office. What do you do? The mail already went out and you pride yourself on always meeting deadlines...

Wouldn't it be great if you could sit down at your computer terminal, type in the computer address and download that report to the Office of the Secretary of State!

Sound far fetched? Too difficult? Or perhaps too easy? Maybe not.

If plans work out the way we hope, you'll be able to send us all kinds of information via your computer: voter registration files; NVRA quarterly reports; election night tabulation and abstracts. Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh has made a commitment for our office to move ahead with the planning and implementation of electronic transfer of data between your office and ours. While the exact details are being determined, we are interested in recruiting a small number of counties who would be interested in helping us do some beta-testing (that's a computer term for trial and error). Please let us know if you're willing to help us to go where no election officials have gone before.

The Right Boat?

You'll improve your chances of surviving the waves of change washing over today's workplace if you pick the right boat. The choices:

Rowboat: Do you want to be in a craft made up of those who must be pushed to get anywhere?

Sailboat: Would you rather join a crew that moves only when the wind is favorable?

Steamboat: Would you rather serve with those who have the power to keep moving through both calm and storm?

Source: *The New York Times*, cited in *The Executive Speaker*, P.O. Box 292437, Dayton OH 45429. Reprinted in: *communication briefings*, Alexandria, VA 22314

Legislative Update

The March, 1996 edition of this newsletter listed a number of bills related to elections, campaign finance and ethics that were being considered by the Kansas Legislature. The legislative session is now over, so it's time to report on the bills that were passed into law.

The major piece of legislation related to **campaign finance and ethics** was House Bill 3000, which was a comprehensive bill. It eventually had other legislation amended into it, such as Senate Bill 545, but none of the legislation ultimately passed. House Bill 3000 did pass both the House and the Senate in different versions, but the conference committee was unable to fashion a compromise that could pass.

The only bill related to **elections** that passed was Senate Substitute for Substitute for House bill 2079, which is the bill to fully implement the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) for all elections in Kansas. This legislation ends the dual system of registration and

voting that was created in Kansas on November 30, 1995 with the federal court judge's signing of a temporary injunction in the lawsuit filed against the Governor and Secretary of State over noncompliance with the NVRA. House Bill 2079 was effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register* on April 25, 1996.

Another elections bill, Senate Bill 671, was amended into House Bill 2079. Senate Bill 671 was an advance voting bill. It allows certain county election officers to convene their special election boards before election day if necessary to canvass advance ballots. The bill also removes all statutory provisions for on-behalf-of applications for advance ballots. It is no longer permitted for one voter to request an advance ballot on behalf of another voter. The only voters who may receive such assistance are sick, disabled or illiterate voters. For more details, see the article elsewhere in this issue.

Residency Requirements for County Officials

The Secretary of State's office has recently fielded numerous questions about residency requirements for county officials. It has come as a surprise to many that for most of the county's elected positions, no residency requirements exist.

Attorney General Opinion 95-93, issued September 6, 1995, addresses residency requirements for many of a county's elected officials.

In summary, there is no statutory requirement that a candidate for or an elected county treasurer, county clerk or register of deeds reside or remain within the county. But, an appointee to fill an unexpired term in any of these offices must be a qualified elector in the county. Persons elected or appointed to serve as

county attorney are not required to be county residents.

County commissioners must reside within the commission district from which they are elected in order to be elected and retain their position. And, though not addressed by the opinion, candidates for sheriff must be qualified electors in the county. See K.S.A. 19-801b.

We will send a copy of the opinion to anyone upon request. Please call our law clerk at (913) 296-8034 and leave a message.

The process of achieving full implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) is well underway. Election officers and other voter registrars planned and executed a May 1, 1996 implementation date. The legislation to implement the provisions of the NVRA in all Kansas elections was Senate Substitute for Substitute for House Bill 2079, which was effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register* on April 25, 1996.

The Secretary of State conducted two training sessions by video conference on March 6. The Kansas State Department of Education assisted in setting up the sessions, which were conducted on the Department of Education's statewide video network. County election officers representing 98 counties attended a morning session either at Topeka or at the five remote sites, and a large number of agency registrars attended the session held in the afternoon. Manuals and forms were distributed prior to the sessions.

There were new forms designed to comply with NVRA requirements, and the standard voter registration application form was revised. The Secretary of State printed the revised registration application forms at the state printing plant and offered them for sale to county election officers and agency registrars. Election officers and registrars printed their own supplies of other forms— notices of disposition, outgoing and return confirmation notices, and declination forms.

County election officers are required to pay postage costs for their mailings, including return postage in the case of confirmation notices. The easiest and least expensive way to accomplish this is through the establishment of a business reply permit. The Secretary

of State's office obtained a permit and authorized counties to use it if they choose, thereby saving the annual fee and the paperwork required to set up the accounts. To date, twenty-five counties have signed on to use our permit.

Another aspect of the NVRA that is now being implemented is notices of felony conviction. U.S. Attorneys are required to notify the chief state election official (the Secretary of State in Kansas) of any federal felony convictions that occur in the state. The Secretary of State began to receive the notices during the months preceding the effective date of the implementation of the NVRA. We are sending the notices to the appropriate county election officers with instructions on how to proceed with them. In the future we expect to receive the notices sporadically, and we will forward them upon receipt.

Location of Registration Sites

The NVRA requires the following offices to be voter registration agencies: public assistance offices, military recruitment offices, driver's license offices, and offices that provide services to disabled persons. In Kansas, public assistance offices are those that provide AFDC, WIC, Medicaid and food stamps. WIC is distributed through county health departments or private providers, and the other programs are administered by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

In addition, the NVRA requires the state to designate other agencies. House Bill 2079 designates city clerks' offices in cities of the first and second class to serve as the state's designated registration agencies. First and second class city offices have been voter registration sites under Kansas law since 1968, and their frequent and numerous

contacts with the public make them an ideal place to reach potential voters.

County election officers accomplished much of the work in getting the city offices trained as NVRA registration agencies. City clerks had not been involved in the March 6 training sessions because the legislation designating them had not yet passed into law and because there is no state agency that exercises central authority over city officers. The Secretary of State requested the assistance of the county election officers in distributing manuals and forms. This request was carried out with a minimum of disruption due to the efforts of the county election officers.

Offices in Kansas that provide services to disabled persons also have no central state authority from which they receive directives. The Secretary of State has worked with the Kansas Department of Human Resources' Office of Disability Concerns and the state coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act to identify the offices around the state that must be included as mandatory registration agencies. We have sent training manuals, forms and a supply of registration application cards to these offices.

The Secretary of State's NVRA advisory panel has completed its work after providing valuable input for the past four years. The panel helped both former Secretary of State Bill Graves and Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh in writing legislation, designing the implementation plan and seeing the plan through to this point. The efforts of the panel members are much appreciated.

National Change of Address Results

Recently we received the results of the first ever processing of the Kansas statewide centralized voter registration file against the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address file. The NCOA file is a list compiled by the USPS and contains names of people who have moved within the last 36 months. This procedure is required by the National Voter Registration Act and Kansas law as a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove names of ineligible voters from the official list of voters.

The Secretary of State contracted through the state's bid process with one of twenty-four private firms licensed by the U.S. Postal Service as NCOA vendors.

The first step in this process was to standardize the April 1, 1996 central voter file against the USPS ZIP+4 file. This standardization is required before the addresses can be searched for moves. After processing, our files had addresses with correct zip codes for 97.9% of our records and a National Deliverability Index of 89.4% (addresses conforming to USPS standards). These are better results than anticipated, which is a tribute to the efforts of county election officers in maintaining their respective databases.

Next, our file is searched to indicate all persons who have moved in the last 36 months. This resulted in 118,469 records matched to the NCOA Database (or 9.1% of the 1,303,455 total records).

Our office will be mailing the results of this processing to county election officers. The information will allow counties to compare the names in their files to the results of the NCOA processing. The NVRA and Kansas law also require county election officers to update their voter registration records and mail a confirmation notice to anyone whose name is shown as having moved. The information will allow, in some instances, the county election officer to request cancellation notices for voters who have moved so as to further clean their files.

Transmitting NVRA Forms Properly

Everyone involved in carrying out the provisions of the NVRA needs to keep in mind the necessity of transmitting documents promptly. The new NVRA system has increased the number of forms in circulation and the amount of paper

being exchanged by various officials around the state.

Voter registration agencies must transmit completed forms to the county election officer in a timely manner, based on a schedule agreed upon by the registrar and the county election officer. The law requires registration applications to be transmitted to the election office within five days of receipt. Of course, this is especially important during the time leading up to an election.

County election officers are instructed by the law to process any applications postmarked before the registration cutoff fifteen days before the election. If a postmark is illegible or missing, they may accept and process the application if received by the ninth day before the election.

Not only is it important for registrars to transmit forms to the county election officers promptly, but county election officers must send them back and forth promptly. There are reasons for this other than the need to get all eligible voters registered before the election. One reason is petitions. Overall, more candidates are filing for office by petition today than in the past. Also, there has been an increase in local initiative petitions and recall petitions during the past few years.

If a county election officer does not receive applications from any of the various sources promptly, he/she might erroneously strike signatures from petitions. If petitions are declared insufficient because the county election officer was not in possession of information he/she should have had, it will be difficult to defend the actions taken in striking signatures and ruling petitions insufficient.

One of the more difficult and confusing aspects of the state motor-voter and NVRA programs has been the change of address forms some individuals complete at the Division of Motor Vehicles office. These forms often require county election officers to exchange cancellations and voter information (date of original registration, party affiliation, voter history, and previous residence). As mentioned above, failure to send this information back and forth increases the chance for errors in conducting various aspects of the electoral process and defeats the purpose of the NVRA, which is to get more people registered and improve the means of keeping their registration information updated.

Advance Voting

Kansas election officials are preparing this year for the first major election conducted under the 1995 advance voting law. County election officers in many counties have conducted local or special question-submitted elections under the new system, but the August primary and November general elections will be the first statewide experience. The reports we have received indicate that voters like the new system very much and county election officers are comfortable with it after their first election.

The advance voting procedures are in many ways similar to the previous absentee voting system with the major exception that now any registered voter may request an advance ballot by mail or in person without having to qualify by reason of absence, sickness or disability, or religious objection. With the convenience the system now affords voters, everyone who wants to cast a vote should be able to. We hope this leads to higher turnout, although it is difficult to predict without statewide election experience with advance voting.

The 1996 Kansas Legislature enacted two changes in the advance voting system.

First, the provisions were deleted that had allowed one voter to apply for an advance ballot on behalf of another voter. Voters who wish to vote advance ballots must sign their own applications, although other persons may distribute blank application forms and return them, signed by the voters, to the county election office. The statutory change arose out of concerns that campaigns, parties and political organizations might use telephone banks to contact voters, fill out

applications for them, and have them signed by registered voters in the respective counties, flooding the county election offices with hundreds or thousands of applications at the deadline. The possibility of election offices receiving unmanageable numbers of applications at the last minute and the possibility that some voters could receive ballots they had not personally requested threatened the efficiency and integrity of the electoral process.

Second, election officers in counties using machines or optical scan systems for advance ballots are authorized to convene their special election boards before election day to conduct the original canvass of advance ballots. This legislation was proposed by the Secretary of State and county election officers in anticipation of large numbers of advance ballots being cast and the difficulty in producing complete unofficial results on election night. If a county election officer opts to convene the special board before election day, no results may be tallied or divulged before election day. The ballots may be scanned and the data stored, but no tallies made. The option of convening the board before election day does not extend to counties using paper ballots for advance voting because of concerns about divulging results early because such ballots are canvassed by visual inspection and hand tallying.

In April, the Secretary of State revised a set of advance guidelines that had been prepared in 1995. The new guides were distributed at the statewide meeting of the Kansas County Clerks Association on May 2, 1996. There had been a

series of twelve forms pertaining to advance voting; the series was reduced to nine because three forms became obsolete due to the elimination of on-behalf-of applications.

With these changes, the only way a voter may request an advance ballot for another voter is through the process of filing an affidavit of assistance with the county election office, but this applies only to ballots requested for sick, disabled or illiterate voters (see K.S.A. 25-1124).

Once the affidavit is filed, the affiant may assist the sick/disabled/illiterate voter by applying for, transmitting, marking, or returning the ballot to the county election officer or any combination of these actions.

Questions have arisen as to whether the affidavit authorizes the person to sign the application or the ballot envelope for a disabled voter.

The statute does not specifically authorize this, but it has been longstanding practice in Kansas elections that any signature a person uses for other official documents may be used in voting, whether the signature is an X or other mark witnessed by another person, a nod of the head, or other action.

There are indications that county election officers should be prepared to handle numerous requests for lists of voters who have requested or returned advance ballots. According to K.S.A. 25-1122(f), each county election officer must maintain lists of persons who have requested advance ballots and those who have applied for and obtained permanent advance voter status.

The lists are public record and any voter may inspect them after

(Continued to next page)

1996 Candidate Filings

As of May 21, there have been 278 candidates file for state offices this election year. One candidate has filed for U.S. Senate "regular term." Three candidates have filed for U.S. Representative from the 3rd District. There have been 52 candidates file for the Kansas Senate, 39 Republicans and 13 Democrats. Of the 102 candidates that have filed for the Kansas House, there have been 69 Republicans, 32 Democrats and one Independent. Four Supreme Court Justices have filed for retention, as well as three Court of Appeals Judges. There were 56 District Court Judges filed; 29 elected and 27 retained. Of the 52 District Magistrate Judges that have filed, 49 are elected and 3 retained. Three candidates have filed for District Attorney. Seven State Board of Education candidates have filed for election.

Imaging at SOS

Another exciting idea that has become a reality is electronic imaging. The imaging system is being used as a storage and retrieval system for all correspondence in and out of Secretary Thornburgh's main office.

The principle behind imaging is this: all letters are sent through a scanner; the scanner converts the written words into images and the image is stored as a data file. The image can be retrieved at any time, eliminating filing cabinets. The image is indexed by key words (name, address, city, topic, etc.) - allowing nearly instant access and retrieval.

Ron hopes to expand the use of this technology to other divisions in the Secretary of State's office (including the Elections Division).

Voter Registration Not Proof of U.S. Citizenship

(Advance Voting -Continued from previous page)

showing identification and signing a logbook. Because the periods of advance voting (20 days for mailing, from 7 to 20 days for in-person voting) will cause campaigns to adjust the timing of their efforts, many candidates, parties and other political organizations will request access to the lists frequently, maybe daily. Some will request computerized lists on diskette, and county election officers should supply the information, at an appropriate cost, in whatever format is available.

They are not required by law to computerize their records to fill these requests, but all counties should be prepared to handle them in whatever mode is normally used in the election office.

Federal legislation was passed recently which prohibits the use of a voter registration card as proof of citizenship. The Federal Election Commission has notified the Secretary of State and other officials of the recent passage of the Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, which was signed by the President on January 26, 1996 (P.L. 104-99).

An amendment to the bill contained the following language:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Federal, State or local government agency may not use a voter registration card (or other related document) that evidences registration for an election for Federal office, as evidence to prove United States citizenship.

Many county election officers in Kansas routinely handle requests from customers for registration

cards or other documents that can be used as proof of registration.

Many such requests are intended to be used as proof of U.S. citizenship when people travel abroad.

It does not appear that the new legislation prohibits election officers from providing proof of registration upon request; it merely restricts how the person requesting the document may use it.



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